

Oak Class 2023 / 24

16th January 2023

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and happy New Year. It astonishes me every year just how quickly the school terms fly by and now we enter into our Spring term. The children in Oak Class have been fantastic, welcoming and caring and I am excited to get going on our next steps.

SATs Week Briefing & Revision Guides:

In the coming days, a date will be fixed for a briefing for Year Six parents so that details of the forthcoming SATs week can be shared. This briefing will focus on the positive approach we take at St. Mary's to the week but will also set out some important changes to the week for this year and what minor preparations can be made in advance. I will also be reviewing this year's releases of revision guides and then making available a set to purchase. I hope to have done this by the beginning of next week, once all evaluation copies have been received, and as ever the cost that the school can secure these for will be significantly lower than the typical retail price. Details of both will follow in a further letter as soon as possible.

Residential

You will soon be receiving a letter of interest for our upcoming Oak class residential. We will communicate dates of information evenings once we have confirmed attendance. This is a great opportunity for the children to develop their confidence and to flourish in a safe outward-bound setting.

Homework expectations:

As set out in the school's homework policy, children in Year Five and Six should be spending **20 or 30 quiet, distraction-free minutes an evening** on homework, but no longer than that, and we certainly do not want it to become a burden on home life or to interfere with important extracurricular activities. If you are finding that your child is struggling to complete the tasks within that time, please let me know and we will work with your child to find a solution. In preparation for secondary school, we hope the Year Six children in particular are now becoming increasingly able to work on homework tasks independently.

P.E.

Mr Nick will be providing one of the PE sessions to Oak Class this term, so PE days will remain on **Tuesday and Thursday**. Children should ensure that they themselves take ownership of ensuring that their PE kit is in school on these days. They are free to leave their kits in lockers for the half-term although you may prefer that they bring it home periodically to be laundered. Children

will be expected to wear spare kit if they do not have their PE kits with them. PE is a compulsory lesson.

Curriculum

Oak class will be looking at settlements in geography and The Windrush Generation in history over the spring term. Homework is linked to our curriculum as per the curriculum map.

As we start the new calendar year, I am confident that the great progress made so far this academic year will continue over the coming weeks. As ever, if there are any worries or concerns please let me know as soon as possible. The earlier I become aware of a problem, the quicker I can solve it and the sooner the children can return to focusing solely on their learning each day!

Happy new year!

Miss Johnson